

## Harrisonburg Bicycle & Pedestrian Committee

### Meeting Summary

August 5, 2008, 5:30pm, 409 S. Main St

Attendance: Thanh Dang (staff), Adam Fletcher (staff), Charlie Chenault (councilmember), Len Van Wyk (citizen), Thomas Jenkins (citizen), Cindy Reeves (citizen), John Reeves (citizen)

#### Welcome/Announcements

Cindy had given a talk to a Virginia Department of Health Symposium on the bike/ped work that has been going on in the City. Cindy shared that Safe Kids received an award.

Rockingham County Fair – Green Tent – There will be “bike stuff” there from the Shenandoah Bicycle Company and others.

#### Old Business

1. Safe Routes to School – Keister Elementary – City Council endorsed a resolution on July 22 for the City Manager to enter into agreement with the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) for the Safe Routes to School project. City staff is still awaiting agreement contract and authorization to begin from VDOT. *As of August 15, Thanh has returned signed agreement to VDOT. Awaiting written authorization to proceed.*

Cindy added that Walking First Fridays at Keister Elementary has grown and this year be Walking Fridays (every Friday). The school is looking for more volunteers to help on Friday mornings. This effort is happening in conjunction with a grant the school has received for healthy, local snacks on Fridays. If interest in helping please contact Cindy at CREEVES@RHCC.com

2. Park View Connector – Thanh shared that the route signage has been completed. Thomas and Len had questions about where the signs were installed and whether they fit with the committee's /community's vision and needs. *Further discussion summarized below in item 10.*
3. JMU/ Arboretum Trail – Thanh had inquired with Towana More, JMU's Associate VP for Business Services, and was informed that JMU had no plans to pave the trail within the Arboretum. There was discussions between committee members about the trails conditions where the City's pavement ends (the path on JMU's side is washing out), as well as, discussions about encouraging JMU to better promote bicycling to campus by paving the trail. *On August 7, Charlie Chenault informed us that he will inquire with Charlie King, JMU VP for Administration & Finance, after King returns from holiday August 15<sup>th</sup>.*

4. Country Club Road/ S Main Street Railroad Crossing – Thanh, Charlie Chenault, Drew Williams (staff), Thomas, Denise Martin, and Jerry Prey (staff) met on August 30 with Tim Amos, Track Supervisor with Norfolk Southern. Thanh shared with the committee proposed improvements for both crossings, which included:

- S Main Street – removal of chair rail, installation of polycorp filler, asphaltting to top of rail, improving shoulders by extending them at the crossing
- Country Club Rd – constructing bike paths to cross the tracks perpendicularly and bringing the path back to the road via a bicycle lane/wide shoulders

Approval of these concepts by Scott Snow, Norfolk Southern, is still pending.

5. CDBG Projects – E Washington, Vine St, Devon Lane – Thanh shared that these project costs were underestimated by staff and the Virginia Avenue sidewalk project has been removed from the list of projects this year primarily due to the high cost of the grade and rock work needed. Virginia Avenue will be reconsidered with another funding opportunity presents itself. Staff has released request for proposals (RFPs) and expects to use Public Works Department funds to supplement the grant funding for the project as needed.
6. THMS – Mrs. Cale – No Updates
7. South City Connection – As negotiations for right-of-ways along the future Stone Spring-Erickson Road corridor are occurring, staff hopes to obtain easements for a future multi-use path to connect the South parts of the City up to Purcell Park.
8. Priorities List – No Updates
9. Elmwood Path – between Elmwood Drive and Westover Park/Community Activities Center – This path has been completed by the Department of Parks & Recreation

#### New Business

10. Update needed to 2005 Bicycle Plan Map route designations – Thanh explained that as new and different opportunities have become available routing has not matched the 2005 Bicycle Plan Map. Thanh asked for the committee to consider updating and making appropriate changes to the Bicycle Plan map to reflect new improvements as well as new needs. Thomas wanted to present this request to the Shenandoah Valley Bicycle Coalition (SVBC) to solicit feedback. The next SVBC meeting is August 11, 2008. *Thanh met with SVBC members, results of meeting to come.*

There was discussion about Mt Clinton Pike and a request from Len for City staff to further consider removal of one lane of traffic in each direction for bicycle lanes.

Charlie shared that JMU has plans to construct a median on S Main Street from Port Republic Road up to the Memorial (to make it a gateway to their campus) and this might be an opportunity for improving bicycle facilities there. Additionally, JMU has plans to increase pedestrian traffic on campus.

11. New Share the Road Signs coming on Dogwood Avenue & South Main St – Thanh asked for the committee to consider the new signage as part of the updated 2005 Bicycle Plan Map route designations. Thanh suggested that Route 1 from Park View to Westover Park be extended along Dogwood Dr to Hidden Creek Lane onto Route 42 to south city limits. Again, Thomas wishes to present this request to SVBC.
12. Bicycle & Pedestrian Education Tent at International Festival, September 27 – Volunteers are still needed to help man the Education Tent. The next meeting of the Education Tent committee meets on August 19 at 9am at Public Works, 320 E Mosby Road. More information on how you can help here, <http://forum.svbcoalition.org/viewtopic.php?f=3&t=212>
13. Highway Safety Improvement Program –
  - E Market St Sidewalk between University & Evelyn Byrd
  - Gates for at grade crossing on W Market St, in front of Rosetta Stone

HSIP program is administered by VDOT and application is due September 1. City staff is working on application.

#### Other Business

- Roundabout Education – Thanh has brochures for anyone interested in having them. Contact her at [thanhd@harrisonburgva.gov](mailto:thanhd@harrisonburgva.gov). More roundabout information also available at [www.harrisonburgva.gov/publicworks](http://www.harrisonburgva.gov/publicworks)
- Thomas asked if E Washington St was wide enough for a bicycle lane. Thanh will look into.
- Our Community Place is accepting bicycle, bicycle parts, and donations to fix up bicycles and provide affordable bikes to the community to promote “sustainable transportation, healthy living and empowering low-income people “. Those wanting a bicycle have several options for receiving a bicycle through either volunteer services or purchasing. For more information contact Tom Benevento, [tbenevento@newcommunityproject.org](mailto:tbenevento@newcommunityproject.org), or Ben Wyse, [ben@shenandoahbicycle.com](mailto:ben@shenandoahbicycle.com).
- Len inquired about the paving schedule on Greystone. There is a pothole in need of fixing. Thanh will look into.
- Thomas asked what the paving schedule along Old Furnace Road and plans for developing bicycle lanes along this corridor is. Adam said that the City has the right-of-way needed to

make improvements and that the paving schedule and new developments (North 38) will incorporate these improvements.

**Quarterly Meetings – Next Meeting Date: November 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2008 @ 5:30pm**